

U E612 ENGU
MAHATHIR-SPORTS
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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 1 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL POPULARISE SPORTS WHICH DRAW LITTLE INTEREST IN THIS COUNTRY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TONIGHT.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER TO HONOUR SOME 700 MALAYSIAN ATHLETES AND OFFICIALS TO THE RECENTLY-ENDED SEA GAMES HERE, HE SAID THE YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTRY WOULD BE DIRECTED TO PROVIDE MORE FACILITIES FOR THE LESS-POPULAR EVENTS.

EVENTS SUCH AS ARCHERY, EQUESTRIAN, POLO AND CANOEING, WHICH WERE POPULAR IN EUROPE WOULD BE INTRODUCED HERE ON A MORE SERIOUS LEVEL, HE SAID.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, THERE WAS A PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AT THE SELANGOR TURF CLUB FOR POLO AND EQUESTRIAN AND STRAIGHTENING A RIVER IN BANGI FOR CANOEING.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO REMINDED NATIONAL ATHLETES AND OFFICIALS TO MAKE EARLY PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT SEA GAMES TO BE HELD IN MANILA IN TWO YEARS. -- MORE

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MEANWHILE, THE NATIONAL SOCCER SQUAD DONATED THE \$4,000 IT RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL (NSC) FOR ITS VICTORY IN THE GAMES, TO BOXER ZULKIFLI YAACOB TOWARDS FUNDING TREATMENT COSTS FOR HIS DAUGHTER WHO SUFFERS FROM A HOLE-IN-THE HEART.

WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, ALSO PRESENTED \$1,000 ON BEHALF OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION OF WIVES OF MINISTERS AND DEPUTY, MINISTERS (BAKTI), TO ZULKIFLI.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE, ALSO SANG A DUET AT THE FUNCTION. PRESENT WERE CABINET MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES. -- BERNAMA
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